

the school districts, they also must live within their means and on their budgets as well.

Only in the Nation's Capital is the notion an oddity, living within a balanced budget. For decades now the Congress only seems to know about increased spending, and to feed that addiction with increased taxes.

The Republican majority, in response to the American people and in concert with them, have charted a new course, a course that embraces a balanced budget with a tax limitation provision. This is a course that seems unique only in Washington, DC, but commonplace everywhere else in the country.

Like an errant child who needs discipline, Congress needs a three-fifths tax limitation for that discipline. Let us pass it before over taxes again.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE AND BEGIN TODAY TO GET TO WORK FOR AMERICA

(Mr. LUTHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's message last night was the message I heard from the Minnesotans I represent throughout last fall's campaign: If you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded by a chance at achieving the American dream.

As a new Member of this body, Mr. Speaker, I came here to achieve results on a bipartisan basis for the people of my district. I applaud this Congress for its quick action on congressional reform but, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Members, that is just the beginning.

We must now get to work and fight to improve the lives of everyday Americans. Middle-class families are crying out for jobs that pay a liveable wage, for an education that provides the tools for the future, for affordable health care for themselves and their kids, and for streets free of violence and drugs. These are the reasons we were elected, to improve the lives of our fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let us accept the President's challenge, stop the gridlock and bickering, and get on with making a better tomorrow. Let us begin today.

#### THE TAX LIMITATION BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. We are going to consider the tax limitation balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

No one, perhaps except President Clinton and some of his senior economic advisers, seriously questions whether we should balance the budget anymore. The question is how to do it.

In the Contract With America, the Republican majority says we should balance the budget with a three-fifths requirement to raise taxes, and put the emphasis not on raising taxes but on cutting spending. Why is this?

If we look at Federal spending over the last 40 years, there has been no year in which Federal spending went down. Every year Federal spending has gone up. In the years that we have had major tax increases, and we have had 16 major tax increases in the last 30 years, Federal spending has gone up and the deficit has gone up also.

Therefore, the American people want a real change. They want a tax limitation balanced budget amendment that puts the emphasis on balancing the budget by cutting spending, not by raising taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will vote for the Barton-Hyde-Dade-Geren balanced budget amendment to the Constitution with the three-fifths requirement for a tax increase.

#### CONGRESS MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET, BUT DO IT IN THE RIGHT WAY

(Mr. TUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, last night the President addressed us. We have heard some of our colleagues indicate that he was equivocal, that he had one speech for the left and one speech for the right.

Indeed, however, Mr. Speaker, the President was very lucid last night. He was very clear. What he said is that he believes in balancing the budget, but the devil is in the details.

What he said, Mr. Speaker, is that yes, he embraces some of the principles in the Contract With America, but, Mr. Speaker, as every good lawyer and, indeed, as every good lawmaker should know, a contract is only as good as its terms and conditions. You must look at the specificities.

The Republicans have not offered us any specificities on how they intend to balance the budget. All they can tell us is if we do not balance the budget, we will indeed be paying for it with our children's future. If we balance the budget on the backs of our children, on the backs of our Social Security recipient, they will indeed be paying for it in their future.

Mr. Speaker, we must be conscientious. We must listen to the President of the United States. We must do it right, but we must do it rightly.

#### CONGRESS MUST PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, history puts so much in perspective and in context. We are going today to bring forth before this House a constitutional amendment to require that our Federal budget be balanced.

Very prosperous countries in the past, very wealthy countries, even in this hemisphere, for example, Argentina, if we look at the history in the early part of this century, Argentina was among the most prosperous countries in the world. If we look now at the dilemma that we are faced with in Mexico, an economy that is part of NAFTA, and it is a very thriving economy, these instances in our recent history and in the recent history of this hemisphere point to the fact that fiscal irresponsibility can destroy even prosperous, even very growing economies.

When we realize that even Keynes, Mr. Speaker, never envisioned permanent deficit spending, we realize that we must put our budget under constraints. We must put ourselves under constraints, as every family in America has to. We must pass this amendment to balance the budget.

#### URGING THE PRESIDENT TO HELP IMPLEMENT REFORMS CONTAINED IN THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mrs. WALDHOLTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in this Chamber have vowed to keep faith with the American people. The Contract With America lays our specific guidelines to reform the way the Federal Government conducts its business.

By ending unfunded mandates, our Government will stop the process whereby the Federal Government simply dictates policy to the States, whatever the cost. And, by passing the balanced budget amendment, the Federal Government will be forced to live within its means, a responsibility that American families accept everyday.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have overwhelmingly endorsed this reform agenda. We urge the President to help implement this agenda to restore to the Federal Government the basic values of accountability, responsibility, and individual liberty.

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#### BATTLE OF THE CONTRACTS

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, stay tuned America for the battle of the contracts today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. In one corner the Republican contract, which